

In the claims:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 28 and 29.

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting growth or differentiation of an epithelial cell, ~~comprising including~~ contacting at least an epithelial cell with an effective amount of an agent effective to inhibit at least one of the growth or differentiation of said epithelial cell, wherein said agent is an anti-hedgehog antibody ~~selected from the group consisting of a hedgehog antagonist and a patched antagonist~~.
2. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~hedgehog antagonist is an~~ anti-hedgehog antibody ~~homolog~~ is an anti-hedgehog antibody homolog selected from ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a human anti-hedgehog antibody, a chimeric anti-hedgehog antibody, a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody, or ~~and~~ fragments thereof.
3. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein the patched antagonist is an anti-patched antibody homolog selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.
4. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein the hedgehog antagonist is a hedgehog mutant that binds to a hedgehog receptor but does not elicit hedgehog-mediated signaling.
5. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting growth of an epithelial tissue, comprising contacting at least the epithelial tissue with an amount of an agent effective to inhibit proliferation of at least the epithelial cells in the tissue, wherein the agent is an anti-hedgehog antibody ~~selected from the group consisting of a hedgehog antagonist and a patched antagonist~~.
6. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~hedgehog antagonist is an~~ anti-hedgehog antibody ~~homolog~~ is an anti-hedgehog antibody homolog selected from ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a human anti-hedgehog antibody, a chimeric anti-hedgehog antibody, a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody, or ~~and~~ fragments thereof.

7. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 5, wherein the patched antagonist is an anti-patched antibody homolog selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.
8. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 5, wherein the hedgehog antagonist is a hedgehog mutant that binds to a hedgehog receptor but does not elicit hedgehog-mediated signaling.
9. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting growth of hair on an animal, comprising treating the animal with an amount of an agent effective to inhibit growth of hair on said animal, wherein the agent is an anti-hedgehog antibody, and wherein said anti-hedgehog antibody inhibits ~~selected from the group consisting of a hedgehog antagonist and a patched antagonist which inhibit~~ proliferation of hair follicle keratinocytes.
10. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~hedgehog antagonist is an~~ anti-hedgehog antibody ~~homolog is an anti-hedgehog antibody homolog selected from selected from the group consisting of~~ a human anti-hedgehog antibody, a chimeric anti-hedgehog antibody, a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody, or ~~and~~ fragments thereof.
11. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 9, wherein the patched antagonist is an anti-patched antibody homolog selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.
12. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 9, wherein the hedgehog antagonist is a hedgehog mutant that binds to a hedgehog receptor but does not elicit hedgehog-mediated signaling.
13. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is a cutaneous epithelial cell.
14. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is a dermal keratinocyte.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is a mucosal epithelial cell.
16. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is an epithelial stem cell.
17. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is a hair follicle stem cell.
18. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is treated in an animal and the agent is administered to the animal as a therapeutic composition comprising the agent, which therapeutic composition inhibits at least one of the growth or differentiation of the epithelial cell.
19. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the epithelial tissue is treated in an animal and the agent is administered to the animal as a therapeutic composition comprising the agent, which therapeutic composition inhibits proliferation of cells in the tissue.
20. **(Original)** The method of claims 1 or 5, wherein the agent is applied topically.
21. **(Currently amended)** The method of claims 2, 6, or 10, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody homolog ~~is an antibody homolog that~~ binds to a Sonic hedgehog protein.
22. **(Currently amended)** The method of claims 2, 6, or 10, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody homolog ~~is an antibody homolog that~~ binds to an Indian hedgehog protein.
23. **(Currently amended)** The method of claims 2, 6, or 10, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody homolog ~~is an antibody homolog that~~ binds to a Desert hedgehog protein.
24. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting the proliferation of hair follicle cells, comprising contacting the cells with ~~a hedgehog antagonist or a patched antagonist~~ in an amount of an agent effective to decrease the proliferation of the hair follicle cells, wherein the agent is an anti-hedgehog antibody.

25. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 24, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is an anti-hedgehog antibody homolog selected from antibody homolog selected from any of a human anti-hedgehog antibody, a chimeric anti-hedgehog antibody, a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody, or and fragments thereof.

26. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 24, wherein the patched antagonist is an anti-patched antibody homolog selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.

27. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 24, wherein the hedgehog antagonist is a hedgehog mutant that binds to a hedgehog receptor but does not elicit hedgehog-mediated signaling.

28-29. **(Cancelled)**